

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing particles consisting of amorphous silicon ~~particles~~, comprising:

reducing a halosilane, organohalosilane, salt thereof, or mixture thereof with a metal or metal compound as a reducing agent in an organic solvent,

wherein ~~when the halogen of said halosilane or organohalosilane is Cl, Br, or I,~~ said organic solvent ~~[[is an]]~~ consists of one or more apolar organic ~~solvent~~ solvents.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said halosilane comprises silicon tetrachloride.

30. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said salt comprises a hexafluorosilicate salt.

31. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, further comprising first preparing by one of the following:

- a) where the halosilane comprises SiCl₄,
 - i) reacting SiO₂ with chlorine in the presence of a reducing agent to form SiCl₄,
 - ii) reacting silicon with chlorine or a chlorine compound to form SiCl₄; or
 - iii) separating SiCl₄ from the product of a Müller-Rochow synthesis of chlorosilanes,

- b) where the halosilane comprises SiF_4 ,
 - i) reacting SiO_2 or a metal silicate with HF or a fluoride of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of the Group 1 and Group 2 metals of the Periodic Table of the Elements to yield SiF_4 and H_2O or
 - ii) decomposing a hexafluorosilicate metal salt to generate SiF_4 and a metal fluoride.

32. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein a metal is employed as a reducing agent, and said organic solvent is heated to a temperature sufficient to melt said metal.

33. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 32, wherein said metal in a liquid state and said organic solvent are agitated to form a dispersion of metal.

34. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises at least one metal from Group 1 or Group 2 of the Periodic Table.

35. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises sodium metal.

36. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises a dispersion of a solid metal particles in organic solvent.

37. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises fusible metal, and said organic solvent has a boiling point at the pressure under which the process is conducted which is higher than the melting point of the fusible metal.

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37 which is conducted at atmospheric pressure.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein said step of reducing comprises reducing under reflux in the organic solvent.

40. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 28, further comprising separating [[an]] particles consisting of amorphous silicon ~~particle product~~ from other reaction components.

41. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein crystalline silicon is a precursor to said halosilane or organohalosilane.

42. (Withdrawn) A process for purifying silicon metal, comprising supplying impure silicon in the form of silicon metal or a silicon compound, converting said silicon metal or said silicon compound to a halosilane, an organohalosilane, or a hexahalosilicate salt; preparing amorphous silicon by the process of claim 28; and isolating a pure amorphous silicon powder product.

43. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A process for preparing an organosilicon compound, comprising:

- a) preparing particles consisting of amorphous silicon metal by the process of claim 28;
- b) reacting said amorphous silicon metal with one or more organohalogen compounds; and
- c) isolating an organosilicon compound.

44. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The process of claim 43, wherein said particles consisting of amorphous silicon is ~~in the form of a~~ comprise black amorphous silicon; ~~brown amorphous silicon, or mixture thereof.~~

45. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The process of claim 43, wherein said organosilicon product comprises at least one organohalosilane.

46. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 43, wherein said organosilicon compound comprises a methylhalosilane.

47. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 43, wherein no catalyst for the reaction of amorphous silicon metal with organohalogen compound is present.

48. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 43, wherein an effective amount of a catalyst which catalyzes the reaction between amorphous silicon metal and organohalogen compounds is present.

49. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 43, wherein the process is conducted at a temperature below 300°C.

50. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The process of claim 43, wherein said particles consisting of amorphous silicon metal ~~[[is]]~~ are employed in admixture with a metal halide byproduct of the preparation of said amorphous silicon metal.

51. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 43 which takes place in a fluidized bed comprising amorphous silicon metal particles.

52. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The process of claim 43, wherein reaction of amorphous silicon metal particles with organohalogen compound is accelerated by ~~irradiation~~ irradiation with microwave energy.

53. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 52, wherein a further substance which absorbs microwave energy and transfers absorbed energy to silicon particles is present.